

DOCUMENTATION FORM FOR UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS

I.O.R.C. RECORD NUMBER

This form submitted as supporting documentation of (check all that apply):

- Unusual species; Unusual date; Unusual number;
 Unusual plumage; Unusual breeding record; Christmas Count record; Spring Count record;
 Breeding Census record; Other: _____

1. Species: Trumpeter Swan
 2. Number of birds: 1 Age/sex/plumage: Immature plumage
 3. Date(s): 12-23-98
 4. Location (incl. County): ~ 0.25 mile downstream of Enchanted Island, Davenport (Scott Co.)
 5. Observers:
 Your name: Kelly J. McKay Phone: (309) 255-6731
 Mailing address: 420 1st. Ave. P.O. Box 452 Hampton, IL. 6256-0452
 Others agreeing with identification: none

Observers NOT agreeing with identification: none

6. Physical description (size, shape, proportions; details of both color and pattern on the head, back, breast, undertail, wings, and tail; coloration of bill, eye, legs and feet) of details actually seen in the field:

I observed a large immature swan swimming and feeding with a flock of mallards. The bird had an all-over brownish-gray plumage. It had a large heavy, darkish bill. I did not notice a kink at the base of the neck. The bird had a straight angle from bill to forehead. The swan was very large and had no neck collar.

Species: Trumpeter Swan Date seen: 12-23-98 Observer: Kelly J. McKay

7. Description of behavior: The bird was swimming and feeding with several mallards.
8. Description of vocalizations: none heard
9. Description of immediate and surrounding habitat(s): Mississippi River side channel. Surrounding habitat consists of a backwater slough and a developed shoreline.
10. Viewing conditions:
Optical equipment (type, power): Leica ultra 10x42 binoculars; Kowa TSN-822 Spotting Scope
Distance / how measured? 50 meters - estimated
Time(s) of observation: 1230 Total time of observation: 15 minutes
Weather / sky conditions / relative position of sun:
clear sky with the sun overhead.
11. Previous experience with this and similar species: Some experience with this species; considerable experience with Tundra Swan, Snow Goose, and American White Pelicans.
12. Reasons for eliminating other similar species and/or hybrids:
Tundra Swan - Smaller, more of an angle between bill and forehead.
Snow Goose - Smaller, pink bill, black primaries.
American White Pelican - "pouched" bill, black primaries and secondaries.
13. Were photos obtained? no By whom? _____ Attached? _____
14. Books & illustrations consulted, and advice received. How did these influence this description?
National Geographic Birds of North America - used to check field marks.
15. How long after observation were field notes recorded? 8 hours
16. How long after observation was this form completed? 2 days
17. Additional remarks:

Signed Kelly J. McKay Date 12-30-98